

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 OIC-02 AF-10
ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /117 W
-----004731 300231Z /70

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8023

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RP, UR

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE OFFER TO HOST 1978 UNGA IN MANILA

REF: USUN 5043

1. SOVIET, FRENCH, BRITISH, AND US REPRESENTATIVES MET
AT UK MISSION, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, TO COMPARE REPORTS
ON THEIR LOBBYING EFFORTS TOWARD OTHER MEMBERS OF GENERAL
COMMITTEE (GC). THE CURRENT CONSERVATIVE PROJECTED TALLY
ON INSCRIPTION STANDS AT 8 YES, 8 NO, WITH 8 ABSTENTIONS.
ALTHOUGH THE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN INDICATES THAT WHILE THE
NO VOTES ARE REASONABLY FIRM, THE ABSTENTIONS AND ONE
OR TWO OF THE YESES ARE SOFT. AUSTRIA AND THE NETHERLANDS
REMAIN KEY TO BLOCKING INSCRIPTION. A RUNDOWN OF THE
24 VOTING MEMBERS OF THE GC SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING:
AUSTRIA--INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN. BUT WOULD PROBABLY
JOIN WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE GC IF THEY VOTE
NO AS A BLOC. SEEKING NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO
JOIN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN'S IN A NO VOTE.
CHINA--YES.
COLOMBIA--NOT INSTRUCTED, LEANING TOWARD ABSTENTION,
BUT A POSSIBLE NO.
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CYPRUS--EVASIVE RESPONSE FROM PERM REP, MIGHT
ABSTAIN. LOWER LEVEL DELEGATE THOUGHT
NEGATIVE VOTE POSSIBLE.
DEMOCRATIC YEMEN--YES ON INSCRIPTION, BUT WILL OPPOSE IF
ISSUE REACHES GA.
DENMARK--NO.
ECUADOR--YES ON PRINCIPLE OF LIBERAL INSCRIPTION.

A FURTHER DEMARCHE MIGHT PERSUADE DEL THAT ITS VOTE COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

FRANCE--NO.

GABON--ABSTAIN.

GDR--NO, BOWING TO SOVIET PERSUASION.

GHANA--YES ON INSCRIPTION, BUT WILL OPPOSE IF ISSUE

REACHES GA.

GUATEMALA--NO.

INDONESIA--YES.

IRAN--YES, BUT IF OTHER ASIANS SUCH AS SYRIA

ABSTAIN, THEY MAY AS WELL.

JAMAICA--ABSTAIN POSSIBLY, BUT COULD VOTE YES.

LESOTHO--ABSTAIN.

MADAGASCAR--YES, BU INCLINATION IS SIMILAR TO IRAN'S.

NETHERLANDS--ABSTAIN, BUT LIKE AUSTRIA, WOULD PROBABLY

VOTE NOT IF WESTERN EUROPEANS IN GC VOTE

NO AS A BLOC. SEEKING NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO

JOIN WESTERN EUROPEANS IN A NO VOTE.

PERU--NO.

SIERRA LEONE--ABSTAIN.

SYRIA--YES ON INSCRIPTION, BUT WILL OPPOSE IF

ISSUE REACHES GA.

UK--NO.

USSR--NO.

3. SOVIETS, BRITISH, AND FRENCH ALL INTEND TO VOTE

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AGAINST INSCRIPTION EVEN IF THE OUTCOME APPEARS LIKELY TO BE IN FAVOR OF THE PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL. THEIR REASONING IS THAT THE QUALITY OF VOTES AGAINST INSCRIPTION (I.E., THE PERCENTAGE OF THE OVERALL CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN BUDGET) WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHEN IT GOES TO THE COMMITTEE OR PLENARY. ALLOWING THE ITEM TO BE INSCRIBED WITHOUT ANY EXPRESSED OPPOSITION WOULD GIVE MISLEADING IMPRESSION. THE THREE AMBASSADORS URGED US DEL TO SEEK THE SAME INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE AGAINST INSCRIPTION.

4. SOVIETS INDICATED THEY WILL HOLD EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP MEETING WITH PHILIPPINES MORNING NOVEMBER 30 AND WILL EXPRESS OPPOSITION IN FASHION SIMILAR TO WEOG MEETING NOVEMBER 25.

5. MEETING CLOSED WITH CONSENSUS THAT LOBBYING SHOULD CONTINUE WITH EACH OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AS APPROPRIATE AND AS OPPORTUNITY ARISES. GROUP OF FOUR AGREED TO MEET AGAIN MORNING DECEMBER 1.

6. COMMENT: THIS FIRST COLLABORATIVE HEAD-COUNT CLEARLY

REFLECTS STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL. DESPITE THE TRADITION OF LIBERAL INSCRIPTION, WHICH AFFECTS THE GENERAL VOTING INCLINATIONS IN THE GC, THERE IS A SOLID CORE OF NEGATIVE VOTES AND SEVERAL VULNERABLE ABSTENTIONS MAKING A BASE FOR A LOBBYING EFFORT WITH GOOD CHANCE TO DEFEAT THE PROPOSAL. IN THE LAST 48 HOURS, WE PICKED UP GUATEMALA AND PROBABLY PERU IN THE NO COLUMN. GIVEN THE BASIC OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL OF SYRIA, THE GROUP MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO WORK FOR AN ABSTENTION THERE, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY AFFECT IRAN AND CYPRUS. JAMAICA REPRESENTS THE ONLY VOTE THAT MAY SLIP TO A YES.

7. WE WOULD LIKE TO INDICATE TO OTHER THREE DELS AT THE DECEMBER 1 MEETING THAT WE WILL JOIN THEM IN VOTING AGAINST
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INSCRIPTION OF THE ITEM. WE WOULD TAKE THIS POSITION ON THE GROUNDS THAT (A) WE OPPOSE THE PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL, AND (B) SOLIDARITY OF THE FOUR IS CRUCIAL TO A COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE THE PROJECT. WE ARE IN THE COMFORT-ABLE POSITION OF HAVING THE OTHER THREE DELS OUT IN FRONT AND URGING US TO COME ALONG,SO WE WOULD NOT IN FACT BE PROJECTING ADDITIONAL US VISIBILITY IN THE OPPOSITION EFFORT. WE BELIEVE THEIR REASONING ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE VOTE IN THE GC, DEMONSTRATING THE CLEAR ATTITUDES OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE UN, HAS MERIT, ESPECIALLY IF DESPITE OUR EFFORT THE ITEM IS TAKEN TO PLENARY.
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